

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Counsel for Assigned has received and reviewed the Examiner's Action, dated April 9, 2003. By this response counsel believes that all matters raised therein are at rest.

Restriction Requirement

Claims 1-7 and 11-15 have been stated to be pending in the application, and claims 8-10 were withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner, which claims are now shown as withdrawn by this response.

Drawings

The Examiner has requested amendments to Figures 1 and 2 to add designation of "scan lines," "signal lines," and "interlayer insulation film." By this response counsel proposes adding reference numerals to Figures 1-6 to correlate those figures with Figure 8. Figure 8 illustrates the scan and signal lines, while other figures in the drawings illustrate the interlayer insulation film. This would make almost all of the drawings correspond to each other with respect to reference numerals. Counsel believes the totality of reference numerals future as requested by Examiner is shown in Figures 8 and 9, and therefore no new matter is being added to the application by adding the reference numerals to the drawings.

Claim Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, and 11-15 under Section 102(b) as anticipated, and has rejected the remaining claims as obvious.

By this response counsel has added to each of the independent claims a step in which an insulating layer is formed to cover the region at the location of the shorting defect before the intersections between the scan line and signal line is cut (typically by a laser beam). Typically, after this cutting operation an additional insulating film is deposited locally at the cut to repair the defect. The particular approach of depositing an insulating layer both before and after making the cut is described, for example, in the second embodiment of the application.

This feature is not shown or suggested by any of the cited references, taken independently or in combination. For example, as described by the Examiner on page 3 of the Office Action, the *Salisbury* '074 patent does not teach this feature. It describes a technique in which the defect is detected, its location identified, the appropriate cuts made, and then an insulation film formed. That reference does not teach the formation of an insulating film before the operation of cutting the desired location.

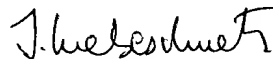
Similarly, *Takagi, et al.*, reference does not teach a step of forming an insulating film prior to cutting.

The limitation that an insulating layer be formed prior to cutting appears in claim 1 as the step immediately after the step of "detecting a shorting defect...." The same limitation appears in claim 4 immediately after the step of "storing the position of the detected shorting defect." (It should be pointed out that the insulating layer can be formed before, after, or at the same time as the defect location is stored.) The language of the claim, however, does require the insulating layer to be formed prior to the step of severing the scan line. A similar limitation has been inserted into claim 11 and claim 13.

All of the remaining claims depend directly or indirectly from the amended claims described above. Accordingly, all claims in this application are now believed in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone Robert C. Colwell at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



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